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Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SCI-06 NEA-10 AGR-20

ACDA-19 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 DRC-01

/256 W

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R 271502Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4888
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD UR
SUBJ: THE SOVIET VIEW OF TRADE AND DETENTE

1. UNDER BYLINE OF FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV, DEC 27 PRAVDA CARRIES 1500 WORD ARTICLE, "MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION." SETTING FORTH APPARENTLY DEFINITIVE POLICY LINE ON SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE. ARTICLE QUOTES BREZHNEV STATEMENT TO RECENT MOSCOW WORLD CONFERENCE OF PEACELOVING FORCES: "ONE CAN KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES, ONE CAN MEET THE LEVEL OF DEMAND AND THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION ONLY THROUGH RELIANCE
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ON THE BROAD INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR," AND AFTER

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LIP-SERVICE TO CONTINUED RELIANCE ON OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AS PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNERS (TWO THIRDS OF TOTAL TURNOVER) STRESSES INTERNATIONAL TRADE AS POSITIVE AND GROWING ELEMENT IN SOLUTION OF SOVIET DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

2. CITING AS EXAMPLES INDIA AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS AMONG DEVELOPED, ARTICLE EXPANDS THEME THAT MUTUAL BENEFIT IS GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE, DEVOTING MOST SPACE TO ARGUMENTS FAVORING TRADE WITH CAPITALIST TRADING PARTNERS. BRUSHING ASIDE RELUCTANCE OF SOME WESTERNERS TO ENGAGE IN EAST-WEST TRADE BECAUSE "THEY SAY THE SOVIET UNION RECEIVES A ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGE FROM DEVELOPMENT OF THESE TIES, THAT THE RUSSIANS 'EXTRACT ADVANCED WESTERN TECHNOLOGY,'" AUTHOR NOTES "EFFORTS BY CERTAIN (PEOPLE) TO CONDITION DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE USSR UPON ABSURD POLITICAL DEMANDS SET FORTH BY THEM. . .THE INCONSISTENCY OF SUCH AN APPROACH IS OBVIOUS: BUSINESSMEN CONCLUDE DEALS FOR EXPORT OR IMPORT OF GOODS ONLY WHEN SUCH TRANSACTIONS REPRESENT A SPECIFIC COMMERCIAL INTEREST FOR THEM, WHEN (PROPOSED TRANSACTIONS) ARE ADVANTAGEOUS OR NECESSARY TO THEM."

3. AFTER DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL PROVISIONS OF TRADE AGREE-MENTS SUCH AS THOSE BETWEEN USSR AND AUSTRIA, ITALY, FRG, FRANCE AND FINLAND, INCLUDING BRIEF OUTLINES OF CERTAIN SPECIFIC PROJECTS, JAPAN AND USA ARE MENTIONED IN PASSING AS AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH DEALS INVOLVING INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS TO BE COMPENSATED IN PLANT OFF TAKE HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED.

4. COMMENT: BECAUSE COMMENTS ON POLITICAL CONDITIONS FOR INCREASED TRADE ARE SO GENERAL AS TO PERMIT APPLICATION EQUALLY TO MFN, CSCE, JAPANESE PEACE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, ETC., NO SPECIFIC INFERENCE SEEMS APPROPRIATE. OMISSION MENTION OF RECENT US-SOVIET VENTURES AS WELL AS SILENCE ON PENDING SIVERIAN NATURAL GAS PROJECTS APPEARS TO REFLECT DESIRE AVOID ANY ACTION WHICH COULD CREATE OBSTACLES IN JAPAN OR US.SOMMERLATTE

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